

THE REMINISCENCES OF CAEL
SCHURZ

vote, and to strip the President as much as possible of all power to interfere. The first, upon the ground that life and property were not safe under the existing provisional governments, divided the late rebel States into five military divisions, each to be under the command of a general officer who was to have the power to declare martial law and to have offenders tried by military commission, as the condition of public safety and order might seem to them to require. Under this protection conventions were to be elected by universal suffrage including the negro vote and excluding the disqualified "rebel" vote, to frame new State constitutions containing provision for the same sort of universal suffrage, such constitutions to be subject to the approval of the people of the respective States and of Congress. The State officers to be elected under these new constitutions were of course to be elected by the same electorate, and the States were to be regarded as entitled to representation in Congress, after having ratified the Fourteenth Amendment to the National Constitution, and after that Amendment had been ratified by a sufficient number of States generally, to make it a valid part of the Constitution. A supplementary Reconstruction Act gave the military commanders very extensive control over the elections to be held as to the registration of voters, the mode of holding the elections, the appointment of election officers, the canvassing of results, and the

reporting of
such results to the President and through him to
Congress. In
order to strip President Johnson of all power to
interfere with,
the execution of this measure beyond the
appointment of the
commanders of the various military divisions, a
provision was
introduced in the Army Appropriations Bill which
substantially
ordained that all military orders and
instructions should be
issued through the General of the Army (General
Grant), who
was to have his headquarters at Washington,
and that all